



Media Release

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Sanderson to retire from DHS Aging and Adult Services post

Herb Sanderson, long time director of the Department of Human Services Division of Aging and Adult Services, is retiring from state government effective November 2008, following more than 28 years of state service.

In Arkansas, the Division of Aging and Adult Services serves as the focal point for all matters relating to the needs of older persons within the state. The Division's goal is to improve the quality of life for older citizens and adults with physical disabilities by advocating for them and promoting the development of a comprehensive and coordinated system of social and health services. The Division has a staff of 203 and is responsible for more than \$180 million in programs

Sanderson was appointed to the DAAS position by Governor Bill Clinton and has served as director since 1984. He held other state positions prior to that and also worked in Jonesboro for several years with local community agencies focused on providing services for the state's senior citizens. He has served on numerous state and national boards, committees, and task forces concerning issues related to the elderly during the past 25 years. He has also received many awards and recognitions for his service to senior citizens over the years.

"Under Herb's leadership, Arkansas has built strong advocacy and support systems for our senior citizens. We wish him well as he continues to work for them in the next phase of his career," said DHS Director John Selig. Sanderson will join AARP in Little Rock as Associate State Director for Advocacy.

During Sanderson's tenure, the division has been recognized numerous times for its innovation in matters concerning the elderly. Under his leadership, the Division implemented a long list of programs

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designed to improve the quality of life for the state's seniors including ElderChoices, Assisted Living, Alternatives, and IndependentChoices.

Connie Parker, DAAS assistant director of operations, will serve the Division's interim director. Parker joined DAAS in 2004. Before that, she worked for the Arkansas Department of Health in social work and quality improvement positions since joining state government in 1993. She earned an undergraduate degree in English and holds Master's degrees in both Social Work and Public Health.

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